

How to Reset the Password in Ubuntu?

written by sysadmin | 1 October 2025

I want to access the user on the Ubuntu server that has the privilege of root using the sudo command, but I forgot my user password.

Problem

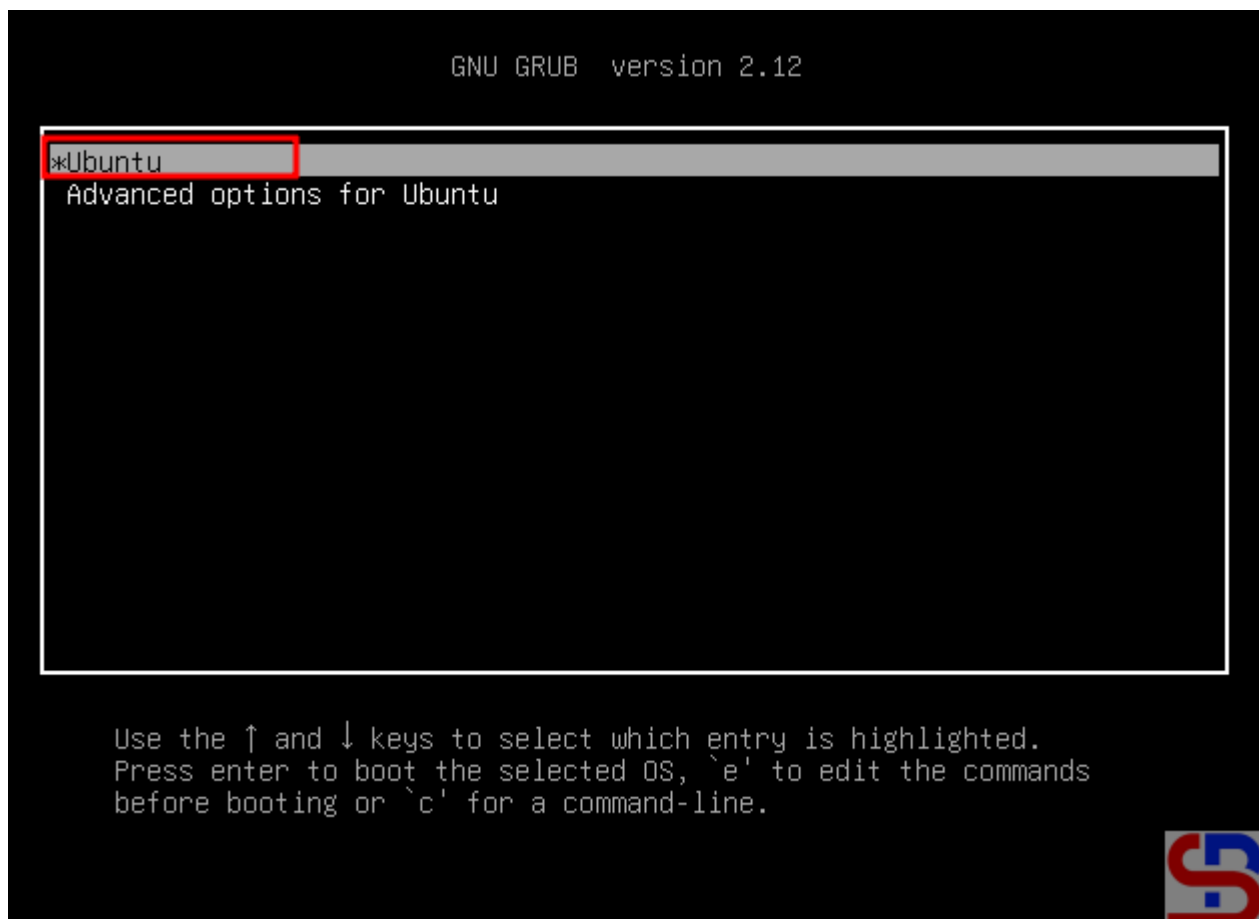
How to reset the password in Ubuntu?

Solution

Here are the steps to reset the password in Ubuntu:

1. Reboot the server

Reboot the server and press the **Esc** key or Shift key, and there should be a display like below:



Choose the Ubuntu

2. Click the first option

To enter recovery mode, select the top part of the image above and push the **e** button, so that there will be a display like the image below:

```
GNU GRUB version 2.12

setparams 'Ubuntu'

    recordfail
    load_video
    gfxmode $linux_gfx_mode
    insmod gzio
    if [ x$grub_platform = xxen ]; then insmod xzio; insmod lzopio; \
fi
    insmod part_gpt
    insmod ext2
    set root='hd0,gpt2'
    if [ x$feature_platform_search_hint = xy ]; then
        search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root --hint-bios=hd0,gpt2 -\
-hint-efi=hd0,gpt2 --hint-baremetal=ahci0,gpt2 c59b0229-fcf2-4f2f-a6c7-\
e183c8ca6093

```

Minimum Emacs-like screen editing is supported. TAB lists completions. Press Ctrl-x or F10 to boot, Ctrl-c or F2 for a command-line or ESC to discard edits and return to the GRUB menu.



The GRUB options

Find the line starting with **linux**, similar to the picture below:

GNU GRUB version 2.12

```
insmod part_gpt
insmod ext2
set root='hd0,gpt2'
if [ x$feature_platform_search_hint = xy ]; then
  search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root --hint-bios=hd0,gpt2 -\
-hint-efi=hd0,gpt2 --hint-baremetal=ahci0,gpt2 c59b0229-fcf2-4f2f-a6c7-\
e183c8ca6093
else
  search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root c59b0229-fcf2-4f2f-a6c\
7-e183c8ca6093
fi
linux /vmlinuz-6.8.0-84-generic root=/dev/mapper/ubuntu--\
vg-ubuntu--lv ro
initrd /initrd.img-6.8.0-84-generic
```

Minimum Emacs-like screen editing is supported. TAB lists completions. Press Ctrl-x or F10 to boot, Ctrl-c or F2 for a command-line or ESC to discard edits and return to the GRUB menu.



Find the line starting with linux

Remove everything from **ro** and append **rw init=/bin/bash** to the end of this line, like the picture below:

GNU GRUB version 2.12

```
insmod part_gpt
insmod ext2
set root='hd0,gpt2'
if [ x$feature_platform_search_hint = xy ]; then
  search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root --hint-bios=hd0,gpt2 -\
-hint-efi=hd0,gpt2 --hint-baremetal=ahci0,gpt2 c59b0229-fcf2-4f2f-a6c7-\
e183c8ca6093
else
  search --no-floppy --fs-uuid --set=root c59b0229-fcf2-4f2f-a6c\
7-e183c8ca6093
fi
linux /vmlinuz-6.8.0-84-generic root=/dev/mapper/ubuntu--\
vg-ubuntu--lv rw init=/bin/bash
initrd /initrd.img-6.8.0-84-generic
```

Minimum Emacs-like screen editing is supported. TAB lists completions. Press Ctrl-x or F10 to boot, Ctrl-c or F2 for a command-line or ESC to discard edits and return to the GRUB menu.



Change the script

After you change the script, press **F10** or **Ctrl+x** to boot these parameters.

3. Run the commands

In the recovery mode, run the command below:

```
mount | grep -w /
```

After that, execute the command below to change the password:

```
passwd
```

After you change the password, run the commands below:

```
mount -o remount,ro /
exec /sbin/init
```

```
Begin: Running /scripts/local-bottom ... done.
Begin: Running /scripts/init-bottom ... done.
bash: cannot set terminal process group (-1): Inappropriate ioctl for device
bash: no job control in this shell
root@(none):/# mount | grep -w /
/dev/mapper/ubuntu--vg-ubuntu--lv on / type ext4 (rw,relatime)
root@(none):/#
root@(none):/# passwd sysadmin
New password:
Retype new password:
passwd: password updated successfully
root@(none):/#
root@(none):/# mount -o remount,ro /
[ 119.578818] EXT4-fs (dm-0): re-mounted 0eef966e-11fc-40fc-a390-e4418282042c r
o. Quota mode: none.
root@(none):/#
root@(none):/# exec /sbin/init
```

Run the commands

The Linux server will reboot, and after that, try to log in with the new password that you set before.

Note

By default, you cannot log in directly as root on Ubuntu, so you can't change your password to root because to be root on Ubuntu, you only need to use your sudo command and enter your user password.

References

tecmint.com

askubuntu.com

infotechys.com